



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: January 8, 2020

Time: 7:15 PM – 9:35 PM

Location: 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Town Hall Annex, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Minutes

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Wayne Chouinard, Lenard Diggins, , Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Tycho Nightingale, Scott Smith, Laura Swan, Chuck Giroux.

Members Missing: Aravind Basavapathruni, Michael Gordon.

Members of the Public: Dave Leone.

1. Public Comments.

There was a discussion with Dave Leone regarding traffic direction and parking on Bartlett Avenue. There was further discussion in the agenda item below.

2. Administration.

TAC members approved the minutes of December with modifications from Lenard.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on agenda).

Wayne Chouinard noted that the DPW had put the Lake Street/Bikeway traffic signal project out to bid and that the bids were over initial estimates. The department is looking to find other funds to make up the difference. Once found the DPW will recommend that the contract be awarded. DPW also completed a warrant analysis for the Wollaston Ave./Appleton St./Virginia Rd. intersection. The volumes and crash data were insufficient to recommend installation of traffic control at the intersection. Wayne is also working with a local group of Girl Scouts to conduct a public education campaign for pedestrian safety.

Daniel Amstutz noted that the town has decided contract with Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates as the consultant to assist the town in developing the Sustainable Transportation Plan. Amstutz

mentioned that issues with the Bikeway traffic counter have been occurring and they are preventing accurate data from being generated by the counter. A spider infestation was discovered in the counter which may be to blame for the erroneous readings. The infestation has been removed and he is monitoring the results, but the counter may still be producing inaccurate data. He is working with MassDOT and their consultant to address the issue. Amstutz and Officer Rateau met with members of ABAC to discuss a warrant article modifying the hours of operation on the Minuteman Bikeway. Rateau noted that the hours of operation bylaw is a tool to prevent loitering on the Bikeway after dark. Amstutz also reported that the town is planning to apply for a MassTrails grant related to the reservoir trail loop.

4. Discussion: TAC Social/Meeting Dates 2020.

Howard Muise invited members of TAC to the TAC Social, after the meeting on February 12th. The social will be at the Masonic Temple at 19 Academy Street. Howard also handed out a final copy of 2020 meeting dates, times and locations.

5. Vote: Letter to AHS Building Committee.

TAC discussed the fact that some of its recommendations have been removed from the new AHS design, including the connection to the Minuteman Bikeway and the proposed traffic signal at Mill St. and Millbrook Dr. These changes came about as a result of the value engineering phase of the project. Wayne discussed the possibility of applying for a trail grant to provide the connection to the bikeway.

The committee voted unanimously to approve sending the draft letter expressing TAC's concerns about these recent changes to the AHS Building Committee.

6. New Issue: St. Paul's Cemetery at Teel Street.

Scott noted that a new fence has been constructed around St. Paul's cemetery. This now prevents people from walking through the cemetery to access Broadway and the bus stops. Additionally, the cemetery appeared to not clear the Broadway sidewalk during the last snow storm.

Laura noted that she had previously walked through the cemetery as a cut through and found that it was commonly used by others. Additionally, people were seen walking pets through the cemetery. Officer Rateau noted that the cemetery was Archdiocese property and that there was little TAC or the town could do. The committee agreed to keep an eye on the sidewalk snow clearing however.

7. Update: Crosswalk on Grove Street.

Melissa summarized the working group's observations in a memo. TAC will wait to make final recommendations until the plans for the DPW property are more formalized. Laura Swan will reach out to the AHS principal to try to understand more about when and why people are crossing.

8. Update: Parking and Traffic Direction on Bartlett Ave

Dave Leone, a resident of Bartlett Ave, discussed a recent community meeting that many residents attended. He also received emails from other area residents who could not attend the meeting in person. They understand this is a complex issue but feel that something must be done.

Mr. Leone mentioned that the town has a two-hour parking ordinance that does not appear to be enforced. Corey noted that this ordinance does not cover Bartlett Ave. Howard noted that the TAC did not want to take any action without involving direct abutters. The group discussed the potential for permit parking in the area but Corey noted that the town has no regulations setup for resident on-street parking permits and those that exist were part of a pilot program that was not continued.

Leone noted that enforcement of existing town parking regulations is weak. In particular, the rule not allowing parking within three feet of a driveway is frequently violated. Corey noted that patrol is responsible for enforcing parking rules on residential streets but that he would see if he could send parking enforcement officers from the center to the area.

Maxtutis asked what the parking situation was like before Whole Foods moved in. Leone believes that much of the increase is the result of employees being prohibited from parking in the store's parking lot. Bertoli discussed a few potential options for alternative parking in nearby parking lots but the group felt that would have to be negotiated between Whole Foods and the property owners who might be unwilling to allow Whole Foods employee parking on their property. Corey and Jeff mentioned that employees could use the Municipal lot in Arlington Center and the store could be encouraged to send its workers there rather than park on the street.

Jeff noted that TAC generally doesn't take on parking regulation changes. Amstutz recommended that the residents generate a petition to the Select Board requesting any changes.

The group discussed a few potential options including expanding the no parking zone adjacent to the whole foods driveway. Additionally, Rateau indicated that more should be done to enforce parking restrictions near intersections. The TAC agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

9. Update: Appleton Street at Park Avenue

Howard presented his intersection network schematic to the TAC. About 1,400 vehicles passed through the intersection during each peak hour. Maxtutis noted that the intersection had a LOS F rating based on the data presented. The group discussed the potential of adjusting the signal timing at Florence to encourage some traffic to use that intersection instead of Appleton. Wayne indicated he would look for funding to run a signal model on the area, the cost of which is about \$5,000.

10. Update: One-Way Signage for Victoria Road

Rateau told the committee that he would be meeting with DPW the next day to discuss signage on the road. Amstutz presented photographs to TAC which show that the existing signage is difficult to see from different street approaches. He proposed adding a no left turn sign on the Johnson Road westbound approach to Victoria Road to make the one-way road more obvious to people unfamiliar with the area.

11. Update: Crosswalk on Academy at Maple.

Due to weather, traffic counts have not been performed. TAC plans to discuss this issue further at the next meeting.

12. Update: Pedestrian Flags

Laura is working with the School Committee to acquire another 400 flags to replenish the town's supply. The cost would be approximately \$760. The new flags would include retroreflective tape, which is lacking on the current flags. Maxtutis offered to go to the School Committee and discuss the flags with them, as he was previously involved in the initial purchase of the flags several years ago.

13. Update: Wellesley Road One-Way

Laura and Scott spoke with the principal at Thompson School and conducted traffic counts. The school plans to discuss pedestrian safety with parents and students. Many local residents signed a petition with this request but Amstutz and the planning department have not spoken with any residents as the petition did not include contact information. A

one-way road does not appear possible because Regis Rd. is a private way which is also one-way toward the school.

14. Update: Apothca Marijuana Dispensary

Rateau told the committee he would be touring the Lynn location soon to see that location's traffic plan. Maxtutis noted that it was odd that the Lynn traffic data had not been shared with Arlington.

15. New Work: Mass Ave Crosswalks

The executive committee has discussed setting up a new working group to evaluate the cross walks at Water Street, Town Hall, and Academy Street. These locations were originally going to be addressed by Mass Ave Phase 2 but that project is on hold indefinitely. It may be possible to use parking district funds to for improvement. The committee agreed that visibility and safety at these locations should be improved. Wayne noted that a redesign of the Water Street crosswalk has already been performed. Dan noted that the existing crosswalks may not be valid. The committee agreed to form a working group to study this issue, including Maxtutis, Chouinard, Rateau, Amstutz, and Nigthingale.

There being no further business, Muise adjourned the meeting at 9:36 PM.